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79e Session de l'Assemblée générale

Review of the implementation outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20 Review)

**1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting and Stocktaking Session**

New York, le 30 mai 2025

Déclaration de la Suisse

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Excellencies,

As we approach the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WSIS, the digital landscape has changed dramatically. Emerging issues such as AI, data governance, and misinformation now mark global debates, while billions still lack meaningful connectivity.

The WSIS+20 review is not just a celebration of progress; it is a call to action to ensure digital technologies serve all of humanity and deliver on addressing and closing the digital divides.

For Switzerland, the way forward is building on WSIS's strengths, a "WSIS Plus" if you will. WSIS Plus means creating a stronger, more interconnected, and inclusive framework for digital governance and cooperation while integrating the ambitions of the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

Rather than creating parallel processes, we must unify them – streamlining governance, avoiding duplication, and leveraging the synergies between a multistakeholder approach and multilateral collaboration which has made WSIS so impactful.

Concretely, we propose an updated WSIS framework fit for purpose to deliver on the challenges and opportunities of our digital world, including, inter alia:

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1. A **Joint Implementation Roadmap** integrating GDC commitments within WSIS implementation work, ensuring coordinated action on connectivity, human rights, and emerging technologies.
2. An **enhanced UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)**, adding ODET and other relevant UN bodies and reinforcing multistakeholder engagement with it, to serve as a holistic steward to digital cooperation, improving coordination across the UN system. UNGIS could serve as a central hub for overseeing the Joint Implementation Roadmap and offer a “WSIS Plus Helpdesk” to offer guidance about available resources within the UN system to member states and other stakeholders. This would make it easier as well for member states and stakeholders to navigate the complex landscape of digital cooperation.
3. A clearer **UN governance and accountability system on digital governance, by strengthening the CSTD** and ECOSOC which would review progress both on WSIS and GDC. By enhancing the CSTD’s multistakeholder character and ensuring it receives regular input from UNGIS and other stakeholders, we can create a more dynamic and responsive review process. This would help ensure that WSIS remains aligned with the latest technological developments and global priorities.
4. A **permanent, reinforced and even more inclusive IGF**, with sustainable funding and stronger interconnections and tangible impacts within the WSIS architecture.

We are confident that we may make progress on this work on the basis of the CSTD Reports as well as the ECOSOC WSIS Resolution prepared by the CSTD this year and look forward to an “elements paper” that enshrines a bold and ambitious vision of an updated “WSIS Plus”.

Lastly and very importantly, we need to maintain the spirit of collaboration that has always been at the heart of WSIS. Digital governance is not something that any one country or organization can tackle alone. A truly open and inclusive process, inspired by the Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, is the best lever for achieving substantive and tangible results. It requires all of us – governments, private sector, civil society, and technical communities – working together towards a common goal.